GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3082
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2002
STOCK OF FOODGRAINS
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foodgrain stocks have reached unprecedent and unsustainable level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the high carrying costs had pushed the Food subsidy bill; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI PRADHAN)

(a)&(b): The stock of foodgrains in the central pool in the past 5 years against the buffer norms is indicated below:-

(In lakh Tonnes)

As on	Stock of foodgrains	Buffer norms	Surplus stock
1-1-1998	182.42	168.00	14.42
1-1-1999	243.79	168.00	75.79
1-1-2000	318.88	168.00	150.88
1-1-2001	457.40	168.00	289.40
1-1-2002	580.32	168.00	412.32

Government of India has taken several steps to reduce the excess stock of foodgrains in the central pool.

(c)&(d): Yes Sir. High carrying cost is one of the reasons for pushing the Subsidy bill. In the last five years the amount of buffer subsidy (also in % to total subsidy) given in bracket and total subsidy released to Food Corporation of India and to the States of West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh undertaking Decentralised Procurement Scheme is as follows:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Buffer Subsidy	Total subsidy
1997-98	936.70 (12.49%)	7500.00
1998-99	1552.3 1(17.84%)	8700.00
1999-2000	1753.7 1(19.06%)	9200.00
2000-2001	4232.75 (35.24%)	12010.00
2001-2002	5881.90 (34.93%)	16837.00